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January 13, 1920.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

You doubtless are aware that public opinion is formed on the North American continent as much by the spoken word as by the printed work. Vast audiences gather every summer in every one of the United States, and in all the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada as well, to hear the important problems of the day discussed by men and women who are considered more or less authorities.

Most of the audiences are gathered under the auspices of what in America is known as the Chautauqua: Audiences of men and women of all classes assemble in outdoor or Open auditoriums during the afternoons and evenings of a week or ten days to hear domestic and international questions discussed, good musical programs, and stimulatimg entertainment. It is to these audiences that many of the leading statesmen, authors, scientists educators, churchmen and men of affairs speak annually. It affords them an opportunity to carry information--a message--direct to thousands of people during a summer.

The Affiliated Lyceum and Chautauqua Association, of which I have the honor to be President, has carried the Chautauqua to every Province of the Dominion of Canada, to Australia dnd New Zealand, and into every one of the United States. Outside of the United States the Chautauquas have local management, we being retained to assist in the arrangement of the programs. More than 12,000,000 people are thus reached every summer in the United States; 600,000 in Canada; 75,000 in New Zealand; and 100,000 in Australia. Recently we have been invited to assist in organizing the Chautauqua movement in Great Britain, a d we hope to render such assistance in the very near future.

From this free platform it is our wish to further all good movements, and it seems to me that a friendly understanding of each other among all English-speaking peoples is a necessary step in maintaining the peace of the world. Therefore, we wish to do all we can to develop that friedly understanding. I know of no better assistance that we can give tha to arrange for the exchange of speakers among the nglish-speaking countries. One good address

from a prominent Endlishman on almost any interesting topic will do more to break down any prejudice that may have existed among the Americans who hear him than would the reading of a dozen books or a series of labored arguments for proper international relations. During the war, this was demonstrated again and again in this country by the results that followed addresses made by such British speakers as Sir John Foster Fraser, Hon. T. P. O'Conner, Mrs. Emeline Pankhutst, "Ian Hay," Father Watt and others, who spoke in this country, I understand, by direction of the British War Mission.

In order to carry forward the work so well begun during the war, we wish to secure the most successful speakers who would, at this time, do most to create a good feeling between the United States and the British Commonwealth. These speakers would be required in the United States during the months of June, July and August. We would like several prominent British speakers who would be willing to speak in Canada or New Zealand or Australia on the general theme of the solidarity of the British Empire and why it should maintained. We would like Australia or New Zealand, Australians and New Zealanders to visit Canada and the United States, speakers from the United Kingdom to go every where, and, of course, we would, when requested to do so, send American speakers to all these self-governing Domimions to discuss international questions from the American viewpoint. We also would like to secure, if possible, several good speakers--men of note--from South Africa, Egypt and India, who would be able and willimg to come to North America and speak ing the States and the Provinces.

It may interest you to know that something of a start has been made in these plans and that Sir John oster Fraser lectured on a Chautauqua Circuit during the summers of 1918 and 1919 and probably will remain for the summer of 1920; that Signaller Tom Skeyhill of Australia spoke to more than 150,000 Canadians and Americans in Chautauqua audiences and that he will speak to double that number this winter; that Miss Ada Ward has done the same; that we have arranged for the appearance of the Hon. Charles A. Poole, Member of the New Zealand Parliament, before Canadian and American Chautauqua audiences next summer and winter; that Father (Captain) R. J. J. Watt of London and the Hon. C. B. Stanton, M. P., have each agreed to spend several months in Canada and the United States; that Mr. Philip Gibbs, John Galsworthy, "Ian Hay," Capt. Alan Bott and many others have done much of such speaking in this country.

Perhaps you are too much occupied to consider making such a speaking tour now, although if you can, I am sure a satisfactory financial arrangement can be made. If you cannot consider the matter now, will you write me as soon as you are in position so you can consider it? Also, if you will suggest men and women of standing, the more prominent the better, who might favorably consider coming, I will appreciate receiving the information. The speaking would be done during June, July, August, 1920, or between November 1, 1920 and June 1, 1921, the speaker addressing a different audience each day and in a different community. I trust I may be favored with an early reply.

Yours Very truly,

President.

LJA:MC

January 16th, 1920

Mr. Louis J. Alber,
The Affiliated Lyceum and Chautauqua Association,
North American Building, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I have to-day received your letter of January 13th asking me whether I could make a speaking tour in the United States under your auspices as well as in the self-governing Dominions. I have to thank you for your courtesy in asking me to do this work for you, but I have so many academic duties that it would be impossible for me to accept your offer.

I am afraid also that I am hardly in a position to mention the names of suitable persons to undertake this work. The academic staffs are at present so fully occupied under the pressure of large attendances that it is doubtful whether any of the Universities of the Dominion could spare such members of the staff as you would wish to have. Also the public men of the Dominion are I should think all fully occupied at present.

Regretting that I am unable to help you,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.